IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An image processing apparatus, comprising:

a first calculating unit ~~that calculates~~ configured to calculate a first feature amount

from a color image signal;

a first processing unit ~~that processes~~ configured to process the color image signal

based on the first feature amount to generate a processed signal;

a compressing unit ~~that compresses~~ configured to compress the processed signal to

generate a compressed signal;

a storage unit ~~that stores~~ configured to store the compressed signal;

a decompressing unit ~~that decompresses~~ configured to decompress the compressed

signal to generate a decompressed signal;

a second calculating unit ~~that calculates~~ configured to calculate a second feature

amount from the decompressed signal, wherein the second feature amount being multinary;

and

a second processing unit ~~that processes~~ configured to process the decompressed signal

based on the second feature amount.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended): The image processing unit according to claim 1,

wherein the second calculating unit ~~calculates~~ is configured to calculate an edge amount from

the compressed signal as the second feature amount.

Claim 3 (Original): The image processing unit according to claim 2, wherein the

second processing unit subjects the decompressed signal to dithering in which a dither

threshold is continuously changed based on the second feature amount.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The image processing unit according to claim 2, wherein the second processing unit ~~processes~~ is configured to process the decompressed signal based on an error diffusion method that includes expressing quantized thresholds of the decompressed signal as a threshold matrix of a dither pattern, and determining the threshold matrix of the dither pattern based on the second feature amount.

Claim 5 (Currently Amended): The image processing unit according to claim 4, wherein the second processing unit ~~employs~~ is configured to employ a threshold matrix of a dither pattern such that an amplitude of the dither pattern increases as the second feature amount increases.

Claim 6 (Currently Amended): The image processing unit according to claim 2, wherein the second processing unit ~~subjects~~ is configured to subject the decompressed signal to adaptive filter processing in which correction of spatial frequency characteristic is continuously changed based on the second feature amount.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): The image processing unit according to claim 1, wherein the second calculating unit includes

an edge amount calculating unit ~~that calculates~~ configured to calculate an edge amount that is multinary from the compressed signal as the second feature amount; and

a color calculating unit ~~that calculates~~ configured to calculate a level of achromatic color in the compressed signal as the second feature amount, wherein

the second processing unit ~~suppresses~~ is configured to suppress a color component of the decompressed signal based on the edge amount and the level of achromatic color.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): The image processing unit according to claim 1, wherein

the first calculating unit ~~calculates~~ is configured to calculate a level of achromatic color in the color image signal as the first feature amount, and

the first processing unit ~~suppresses~~ is configured to suppress a color component of the color image signal based on the first feature signal.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): The image processing unit according to claim 1, wherein the first calculating unit includes

a color calculating unit ~~that calculates~~ configured to calculate a level of achromatic color in the color image signal as the first feature amount; and

a character determining unit ~~that determines~~ configured to determine presence or absence of a character in the color image signal as the first feature amount, and

the first processing unit ~~suppresses~~ is configured to suppress a color component of the color image signal based on the level of achromatic color and the determination regarding the presence or absence of a character.

Claim 10 (Currently Amended): The image processing unit according to claim 2, wherein

the first calculating unit ~~determines~~ is configured to determine presence or absence of a black character in the color image signal as the first feature amount,

the first processing unit ~~determines~~ is configured to determine a signal value indicating an achromatic color for the color image signal based on the determination regarding the presence or absence of a black character, and

the second processing unit ~~suppresses~~ is configured to suppress a color component of

the decompressed signal based on the second feature amount and the signal value.

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): The image processing unit according to claim 8,

wherein the compressing unit ~~compresses~~ is configured to compress the processed signal after

converting the processed signal into a signal in a luminance color difference system.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The image processing unit according to claim 9,

wherein the compressing unit ~~compresses~~ is configured to compress the processed signal after

converting the processed signal into a signal in a luminance color difference system.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The image processing unit according to claim 10,

wherein the compressing unit ~~compresses~~ is configured to compress the processed signal after

converting the processed signal into a signal in a luminance color difference system.

Claim 14 (Original): An image processing method, comprising:

calculating a first feature amount from a color image signal;

processing the color image signal based on the first feature amount to generate a

processed signal;

compressing the processed signal to generate a compressed signal;

decompressing the compressed signal to generate a decompressed signal;

calculating a second feature amount that is multinary from the decompressed signal;

and

processing the decompressed signal based on the second feature amount.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): A computer ~~program containing~~ readable medium, storing computer executable instructions ~~which when executed causes~~ that cause a computer to ~~execute~~ implement a method of:

calculating a first feature amount from a color image signal;

processing the color image signal based on the first feature amount to generate a processed signal;

compressing the processed signal to generate a compressed signal;

decompressing the compressed signal to generate a decompressed signal;

calculating a second feature amount that is multinary from the decompressed signal; and

processing the decompressed signal based on the second feature amount.